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which have been found to be much more widespread as constituents of rocks than was supposed when the German edition was published three years ago.

A further reduction in the size of the book is effected by a rather free translation, by which an entire sentence is sometimes reduced to the position of a short qualifying phrase, and by the omission of certain tables of refractive indices, but more especially by the exclusion of the references to the occurrences of the various minerals in rocks of foreign localities. To compensate for the latter loss, notes on American occurrences have been copiously inserted.

The style of the language used is clear; the expressions are forcible; and, better than all else, the reader of the translation may rest assured that he is getting the exact thought of the author of the original.

Not only is Mr. Iddings to be commended for his careful translation, but Messrs. Wiley & Sons are likewise to be congratulated on producing a work of such a pleasant appearance as the book before us.

The only fault that can be found with the volume is its price. It would seem that in view of the fact that the translation will meet with a ready sale in England and America, its price might have been placed at such a figure as to enable every one taking a course in geology to indulge in the luxury of a few weeks' work with the beautiful objects in rocks revealed to our eyes when aided by the polarizing microscope.—*W. S. B.*

GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL.

NANSEN'S GREENLAND EXPEDITION.—The last mail from Norway brings more information about the Nansen expedition to the interior of Greenland. The expedition consisted of the following named daring men, under the leadership of Dr. Frithjof Nansen, conservator of the Bergen Museum; Lieut. Olaf Dietrichsen, Mate Otto Sverdrup, Christian C. Trana, Ole N. Ravna, and Samuel J. Batto, all especially selected men, strong and healthy in body and mind and good "ski-runners." "Ski" are the snow shoes extensively used in Norway for travelling over the snow fields of that country. The party left Norway on May 2; travelled by steamer as far as to Iceland, where they arrived in the middle of June. From Iceland the whaler Jason brought them over to Greenland, and on the

17th of July left them on the drifting ice with the land in sight some few miles distant. From that time until they could reach the inhabited west coast of Greenland communication with the rest of the living world would be an absolute impossibility. A stretch of 450 miles, never traversed by man, lay before them; they had their Norwegian ski, provisions for two months, and necessary instruments for making observations, and they started for the shore. They had to make their way across the glaciers in two months or die. Not before next summer can we have a complete report of the journey; till then we must, with the information we get from two hurriedly written letters which, by mere accident, came over in the last vessel from that region this year. The letter from the mate Sverdrup to his father is given below:

GODTHAAB, *Oct. 4, 1888.*

"Yesterday, after sixty-four days' journey from the east coast, we arrived here all safe. The landing was more difficult than we had calculated. The drifting ice upon which we stepped when leaving the whaler was moving very rapidly toward the south and off from the shore, and it took us twelve days to reach the shore. In that time we had drifted nearly 100 miles. As soon as we had terra firma under foot we started northward along the coast, looking for a place where it would be possible to ascend the solid inland ice. After another twelve days' search we finally found such a place, made our way up without very great difficulty, and on the 16th of August we commenced our westward march. We at first laid our course for Christianshaab (a settlement to the northwest), but when we had reached an elevation of about 7500 feet a terrible snow storm met us, and we concluded to take a more southerly direction toward the Godthaab settlement, as this line would be shorter, and probably would not expose us so severely to the storms from the north. We had, indeed, a hard journey. The terrain in general and the snow were very difficult to walk upon, and the weather was rough. In about three weeks we travelled on an elevation of 10,000 feet in a temperature of 35 to 40° below zero; but we kept moving. Only four days were we held by storms. When we came across and down from the inland ice on the west side we found a stretch of about twenty miles wide free from snow, fifteen miles of which was along the edge of a fiord. We brought the tent and provisions down to the shore and built a camp; further proceeding seemed for a time impossible. Then we made a small boat from part of the tent and a canvas bag. When this boat was ready Dr. Nansen and I started for this place, and after four days' rowing we arrived here, and were very kindly received by the people. Two boats are now sent to the camp, where we left our companions, to bring them down here. The post-ship has left long ago, but some fifty miles farther south there is a steamer, having been accidentally kept back by a breakdown and the storms, now just ready to sail for Copenhagen, and we send two messengers, hoping they will reach the steamer, and perhaps make it wait for us and take us home. We have but very little hope, though, that the steamer will wait, and we shall be compelled to stay here over winter, as this is the last chance this year."

It appears that the steamer did not wait for them, but took the letters and delivered them at Farsund, the nearest port in Norway. The expedition, consequently, must stay in Greenland through the winter, with the prospect of getting plenty of leisure time, and next summer we shall have a full report of this remarkably daring and interesting journey.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

Description of New and Imperfectly Known Species of Brachiopoda, from the Devonian Rocks of Iowa.—Of the Brachiopod Fauna of the Devonian rocks of Iowa, no genus is, perhaps, so variable as the Genus *Atrypa.* Many varieties of *Atrypa recticularis,* of the Iowa strata, are often restricted in their range to certain horizons and localities. For example, at Iowa City, Turkey Creek and Roberts' Ferry, in Johnson county, there occurs in a bed of argillaceous shale a very large and coarse variety of this species, which is not known to appear at any other locality in Iowa, or elsewhere. In some dark bituminous shale at Independence, occurs another variety of the same species, and which is analogous to one of the varieties of the Rockford shales; this form, however, differs from the Rockford shale variety in its very diminutive size.

In the limestone at "Big Bend" of the Iowa river in Johnson county, at Independence, Waverly, etc., occurs another well-marked variety. Many individuals of this variety possess very large thin wings or expansions, the entire shell having a diameter of from five to eleven centimeters; the body of the shell, however, being often only one-half or even one-third that diameter.

At Littleton, in Buchanan county, is found another very distinct variety (a coarse form) whose equivalent is not known to occur at any other locality in the State; its nearest representative, so far as known to me, occurring in the Devonian strata at Louisville, Ky. In the Rockford shales occur two varieties, the smaller of which has the front of the shell so strongly contracted as to produce a dis-